



## Remember when it was 50 degrees on January 5th?

I keep reminding my kids of that as we experienced -50 degrees this past week. I agree, this weather is downright ridiculous and it can stop snowing whenever it wants to. I do want to give a shout out to our Public Works staff. Its the first winter for a couple of them and with all this snow they've been thrown into the mix quickly and I feel they have done a great job with snow removal! Now lets get you caught up on the month.

The first 45 minutes of the meeting was spent hearing budget requests from the different departments along with information concerning the FY2020 Budget. The Ely Finance Committee will take the requests under consideration and will make a final decision by February's regular council meeting.

Next, John Ryk was appointed by City Council to fill an open seat on the Park Board. John was recommended by the board to fill the role. The city appreciates everyone who volunteers to help out. Speaking of appreciation,

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there is going to be a Community Potluck on Sunday, February 17th, at the Legion from 4:00-5:30pm. Everyone is invited, just bring a dish to share. During the potluck we will take time to thank volunteers and announce the 2019 Ely Citizen of the Year!

Lastly, Scott with MMS consulted with council on capital projects focusing on State Street and Vavra Drive. New considerations included off-street parking for Vavra Park, adding new sidewalks along Vavra Drive and continuing the sidewalks on State Street to Northgate Drive. Discussion continued on a major overall to Vavra Drive including curb, gutter and a new asphalt surface. Council further examined resurfacing State Street as well as improving the water main along State Street. A special meeting was held on January 28th to further discuss these two projects and review projected costs for adding in the sidewalks and off-street parking. **An informational meeting for the public on these projects is set for Thursday, February 21st at 6:30pm.** The meeting will be held at the City Hall and everyone is invited *and encouraged* to attend. These projects will affect all of us in Ely!

Thanks for taking the time to get caught up. Hopefully the next time I'm writing to you the weather will be a lot warmer and there will be less snow on the ground. Until next time!

**Eldy Miller**

*Mayor of Ely*

C: 319-350-9231

E: [Eldy@ElyIowa.com](mailto:Eldy@ElyIowa.com)

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